[29th January 1934

Disqualification for voting incurred by members of local bodies in the Guntur district on the plea of an alleged resignation of office on their part.

* 509 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representations from the aggrieved members regarding instances in Guntur district, where the presidents have disqualified members from voting or participating in no-confidence motions on the plea that those members had sent in letters of resignation from the local areas concerned, in spite of the protests of the members concerned and their declaration that they had never written letters resigning their seats; and

(*b*) what action the Government have taken to prevent such abuse of powers in the future?

A.—(*a*) Government have received a petition to this effect from M.R.Ry. Modukuru Rajayya Garu, a member of the Guntur Taluk Board.

(*b*) Government have already issued instructions in G.O. No. 146, L. & M., dated 17th January 1931, copy of which is placed on the table.[a] In the case under reference, however, the President, Taluk Board, Guntur, reported that the member tendered his resignation to the President in person.

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"May I know why the Revenue Divisional Officer who presided when the no-confidence motion was moved, permitted Mr. Rajayya to take part in the motion?"

Mr. E. CONRAN SMITH:—"The Government have no information."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"How can the Revenue Divisional Officer admit a member who has resigned already?"

Mr. E. CONRAN SMITH:—"The resignation in question was received by the President of the Board. The Government took the view that the genuineness or otherwise of the resignation was not a matter for the Revenue Divisional Officer to decide but for the courts."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"What made the Government delay passing any order for eight months and then ask the Taluk Board to show cause why it should not be dissolved?"

Mr. E. CONRAN SMITH:—"The hon. Member is confusing two issues. The Government have not asked the Taluk Board to show cause why it should not be dissolved in connexion with this particular case."

Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"With reference to the Government Order issuing instructions as to how local bodies should behave in the matter of accepting resignations, may I know whether

[a] Printed as Appendix V on page 112 infra.

29th January 1934]

the date of resignation or the date when the resignation was received by the President of the Local Board or the date of confirmation of the communication was urged should be taken into consideration?"

Mr. E. Conran Smith:—"The instructions issued by the Government are only executive instructions. They do not relate to the question raised by the hon. Member, which is a matter for the courts."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—"When there is a specific Government Order issued by the Government in 1931 that, when a member denies having sent in his resignation, it must not be given effect to, may I know the reason why the Taluk Board President did not give effect to that Government Order?"

Mr. E. Conran Smith:—"The question should be addressed to the Taluk Board President."

Appointment of the President, District Board, Kistna, as Special Officer for the conduct of elections to the panchayats in the district.

* 510 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the President, District Board, Kistna, was appointed special officer to conduct elections to the panchayats in his district till a district panchayat officer was appointed in due course;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that the order appointing him as special officer was subsequently cancelled;

(*c*) who originally suggested the appointment, the Government or the Inspector of Local Boards and Municipalities; and

(*d*) on whose suggestion was the order cancelled and what the reasons are for the same?

A.—(*a*) The President, District Board, Kistna, was appointed Election Officer in connexion with the conduct of elections to panchayats in the district.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The Inspector of Municipal Councils as Election authority made the appointment.

(*d*) At the instance of Government. The appointment was contrary to the scheme and spirit of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920.

Medical Administration

Leave allowances of medical officers compelled to go on leave preparatory to retirement.

* 511 *Q.*—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether in their Order No. 712, P.H., dated 24th March 1932, the Government compelled any medical officers to go on leave preliminary to retirements and, if so, their names, the date from which their